(*c*) the progress that has been made in establishing sericulture as a regular industry ; and

(*d*) whether, in the light of the experiments already made, there are reasonable prospects of sericulture proving a profitable industry in the State ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) About 16 years.

(*b*) Total of recurring expenditure—Rs. 50,692-8 chs.

Total of non-recurring expenditure—Rs. 4,210-15 chs. 14 c.

(*c*) and (*d*) An extract* from a recent report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, containing the information required by the member, is laid on the table.

Strength of the Arts College.

169. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the total strength of the Arts College in the beginning of the last academic year (1926-1927) and in the beginning of the present academic year (1927-1928) ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 617 at the beginning of 1926-27 and 559 on the 19th July 1927, the beginning of the academic year 1927-28.

Liquor and Opium Shops in Trivandrum Town.

170. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) ; Will the Government be pleased to state the number of arrack, toddy opium and foreign liquor shops situated in the Trivandrum town ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The information is furnished below :

Arrack shops	...	18
Toddy „	...	14
Opium „	...	1
Foreign liquor „	...	5

School for Mental Defectives.

171. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state if any school for mental defectives has been opened anywhere or whether this question has engaged their attention ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : No.

Inefficient Officers of the Excise Department.

172. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) the number of officers in the Excise Department who were promoted to higher grades, but who have been subsequently found to be unfit for the places to which they were promoted, during the last three years (1099-1101) ; and

* *Vide* Appendix IV—pages 860 and 861.

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[Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai.]

(*b*) the percentage of men punished out of the total strength of the department during the last six years (1096-1101) ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Nil.

(*b*)

Year.	*Percentage.*
1096	33·23
1097	28·30
1098	33·42
1099	32·42
1100	27·90
1101	26·56

New cultivation introduced by the Agricultural Department.

173. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the new profitable cultivation popularised in the State till now by the Agricultural Department?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): A statement,* prepared by the Director of Agriculture, and containing the information required is laid on the table.

Re-establishment of the Magistrate's Court, Tiruvalla.

174. **MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any final decision on the question of re-establishing the Magistrate's Court at Tiruvalla, and, if so, what?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government have not come to any final decision in the matter.

Grant-in-aid Ayurveda Schools.

175. **MR. N. KUMARAN** (*Nominated*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of grant-in-aid Ayurveda schools with the amount each is receiving as grant?

(2) Have the Government laid down any policy or passed any rules regarding grants to such schools?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The list† required is laid on the table.

(2) The general policy of the Government is to encourage deserving private enterprise in matters connected with Ayurveda. No rules have been passed regarding grants to such schools.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know on what principle these grants are sanctioned by the Government?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There are no rules on the subject now.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I find from the statement that some schools get Rs. 30 and others Rs. 20.

* *Vide* Appendix V—pages 862 and 863.

† *Vide* Appendix VI—page 863.

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